

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 HA-05 CU-04 (ISO) W
-----027316 020412Z /70

R 011737Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2482
INFO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 35074

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLAD

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: XT, MPOL, NATO
SUBJ: MEU ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU)
ASSEMBLY MEETING IN PARIS INCLUDED TWO NOTEWORTHY
ITEMS:

(A) A SPEECH BY SACEUR FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS WITH RESULTING FRENCH PRESS PLAY OF HIS
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REMARKS RE THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST
MINISTERS IN GOVERNMENTS OF NATIONS BELONGING TO NATO.

(B) ADOPTION OF A REVISED REPORT ON CSCE
IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORED BY ITALIAN COMMUNIST SERGION
SEGRE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEU ASSEMBLY--89 PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE

UK, FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND LUXEMBOURG--HELD ITS 23RD MEETING IN PARIS NOV 28-30. THIS WAS THE THIRD SUCH MEETING SINCE THE DEC 1976 DECISION BY ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARLIAMENTARIANS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE WEU.

3. ON NOV 29 GENERAL HAIG GAVE AN ELOQUENT AND WELL-RECEIVED ADDRESS COVERING CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND CHANGES IN THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT. FOLLOWING SACEUR'S SPEECH PARLIAMENTARIANS POSED QUESTIONS.

4. FRENCH SOCIALIST JEAN PERIDIER ASKED GENERAL HAIG WHETHER HE "STOOD BY THE REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HIM THAT THE US AND NATO MIGHT HAVE TO REVIEW THEIR POSITION IF COMMUNISTS COME INTO A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT IN EUROPE. DID HE NOT THINK THAT COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE?? (SOURCE: WEU TRANSCRIPT.)

5. GENERAL HAIG RESPONDED:

"I KNEW THAT I SHOULD GET THAT WONDERFUL QUESTION ON MARXIST PARTICIPATION IN NATO GOVERNMENTS. I HAVE BEEN QUOTED EXTENSIVELY IN VARIOUS CAPITALS ON THIS SUBJECT. MOST OF THOSE QUOTES HAVE BEEN WRONG. I HAVE NEVER INDULGED IN A POLITICAL ASSESSMENT OF WHAT

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IS PROFOUNDLY A POLITICAL QUESTION.

"I HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENT BY THE US GOVERNMENT THAT THIS IS ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL QUESTION, THAT IT INVOLVES THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE NATION CONCERNED AND THAT IT IS UP TO THAT NATION TO MAKE THE DECISION. I THINK THAT THEY HAVE GONE BEYOND THAT AND SUGGESTED THAT A NATION THAT WOULD SO DECIDE SHOULD DO SO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON SUBSEQUENT RELATIONSHIPS FOR THAT NATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. I AM NOT UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THAT. THE SUGGESTION HAS BEEN THAT IT WOULD PERHAPS BE DELETERIOUS.

"AS A MILITARY MAN, HOWEVER, I THINK THAT I HAVE BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE OBLIGATION TO COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT IN PURELY MILITARY TERMS, AND THAT IS WHAT I SHALL DO TODAY.

"FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, I WOULD BE CONCERNED BY TWO CONSEQUENCES. THE FIRST IS THE IMPACT THAT IT WOULD HAVE ON OUR ABILITY TO PROCESS, HANDLE, TRANSFER AND COMMUNICATE HIGHLY SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION WITHIN OUR NATO APPARATUS. INDEED, WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THESE DANGERS IN THE PAST, AND THEY ARE

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLAD

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL

NOT MEANINGLESS.

"SECONDLY - THIS QUESTION DOES NOT INVOLVE THE
ADHERENCE OF A PARTICULAR PARTY TO THE SOVEREIGNTY
OF EAST GERMANY OR MOSCOW TUTELAGE - IT IS THE FACT
THAT, AS A MILITARY MAN WHO TODAY IS PRIMARILY CON-
CERNED WITH THE PRIORITY PAID BY OUR MEMBER GOVERN-
MENTS TO OUR SECURITY NEEDS, I SHOULD BE CONCERNED
THAT ANY MARXIST INFLUENCE, MOSCOW-RELATED OR NOT, BY
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DOCTRINAL CONVICTION WOULD PLACE OUR SECURITY NEEDS ON THE LOWEST STEP OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES. THEREFORE, I WOULD AGAIN BE CONCERNED AS A MILITARY MAN.

"I SHALL TERMINATE MY MILITARY COMMENTS ON A POLITICAL SUBJECT WITH THAT INTERVENTION."

6. FRENCH PAPERS WITH ONE EXCEPTION PLAYED SACEUR'S SPEECH AND RESPONSES STRAIGHT AND ON INNER PAGES. THE COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY "HUMANITE" HEADLINED ITS FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT "GENERAL HAIG'S ORDER: DISCARD THE COMMUNISTS IN EUROPE...." THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO CALL HIS REMARKS "SCANDALOUS," "INADMISSIBLE INSOLENCES," AND AN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS... BY AN AMERICAN MILITARY LEADER WHO SEEMS TO BELIEVE HIMSELF TO BE IN A CONQUERED COUNTRY.

7. "HUMANITE" CONTINUED BY CRITICIZING THE GOF AND THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY FOR NOT PROTESTING SACEUR'S REMARKS.

8. THE SERGRE REPORT: ADDRESSEES MAY RECALL THAT SERGRE WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN DEC 1976 TO PRODUCE A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. THE FIRST EFFORT WAS REVIEWED BY THE WEU ASSEMBLY AT ITS JUN MEETING AND REJECTED BECAUSE OF ITS HEAVILY BIASED CONTENT. SERGRE WAS REQUESTED TO COME UP WITH A MORE BALANCED REPORT. SERGRE'S REVISED REPORT WAS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER A 10-5 VOTE. AFTER AN OCCASIONALLY HEATED DEBATE THIS WEEK, THE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE REPORT WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS BY A VOTE OF 50-18.

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9. THE REVISED REPORT STILL CONTAINS A BIASED COMMUNIST OUTLOOK (E.G., THE SOVIET REVIEW "NEW TIMES" IS DESCRIBED AS A "CORRECT METHODOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT.") HOWEVER, SERGRE HAS ATTEMPTED TO GIVE IT THE APPEARANCE OF BALANCE BY INCLUDING EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS FROM SPEECHES BY WESTERN, NEUTRAL, AND EASTERN LEADERS. WE DOUBT THAT MANY OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS HAD ACTUALLY READ THE REPORT AND THUS THE VOTE CENTERED MORE ON THE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WEU COUNCIL. THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ADOPTED AS FOLLOWS:

1. CONTINUE TO EXAMINE THE CONDUCT OF THE BELGRADE MEETING IN PARALLEL WITH GOVERNMENTS AND RELEVANT EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC ORGANIZATIONS;
2. AS A PRIORITY, ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE THE PRO-

CESS OF DETENTE THROUGH ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WITH A
VIEW TO IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
ALL THE SIGNATORY STATES AND AFFIRMING HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS;

3. ENSURE THAT ALL SIGNATORY COUNTRIES APPLY
THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, RECOGNIZING
THAT A REMINDER OF THE NEED TO RESPECT ALL THE PRO-
VISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT IN FULL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE
INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SIGNATORY
STATES. HARTMAN

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